

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

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FOL STATE SENT ACTION AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS GENEVA  
JIDDA KUWAIT DHAHRAN JERUSALEM KHARTOUM MANAMA TEHRAN TEL AVIV  
TUNIS TRIPOLI RABAT LONDON PARIS MOSCOW ROME USUN NATO  
SANAA BAGHDAD DOHA ABU DHABI ALGIERS CINCENR JAN. 18, 1975  
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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CINCENR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 17, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUMMING UP OF THE IMPORTANT  
THREE DAYS OF TALKS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON HAS HAD IN  
WASHINGTON?

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A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE

STATED, YESTERDAY EVENING, I BELIEVE -- AND THE REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY AFTER THE MEETING, WITH THE PRESIDENT.

Q. MR. ALLON --

A. NO, THE SECRETARY HAD BREAKFAST WITH MR. ALLON THIS MORNING. HE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN AT LEAST PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON AND THE VICE PRESIDENT.

Q. AS YOU KNOW, MR. ALLON IS HAVING A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON.

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT, AT 2:30

Q. HAS HE DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY WHAT HE IS GOING TO SAY?

A. I'M NOT SURE, SPECIFICALLY. IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME THAT THEY WOULD HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT.

Q. IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE PENTAGON HAVE WORKED OUT SOMETHING FOR YOU TO SAY ABOUT ARMS SHIPMENTS TO OMAN. COULD YOU FAVOR US WITH THAT?

Q. AND OTHER PLACES, LIKE LEBANON AND JORDAN?

A. WELL, I WOULD HESITATE TO DESCRIBE MY GUIDANCE IN THAT MANNER, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE INFERRING.

Q. BUT LET'S ASSUME THAT WE HAVE PRESSED THE BUTTON. COULD YOU --

A. LET ME JUST SAY A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT OMAN AND THE REPORTS OF MILITARY SALES TO OMAN.

THE FIRST POINT I WOULD MAKE IS THAT OMAN HAS BEEN ELIGIBLE FOR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES UNDER EXISTING LEGIS-

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LATION, AND WE NOTIFIED CONGRESS SOME MONTHS AGO OF THAT ELIGIBILITY.

AND I WILL SAY THAT SOME MODEST SALES TO OMAN HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, BUT I AM NOT IN THE POSITION TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THOSE SALES.

Q. EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU SAYING AMMAN OR OMAN.

A. OMAN.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE SALES OF TOW ANTI-TANK MISSILES TO LEBANON AND APPROVING THE SALES OF HAWK ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES TO JORDAN? AND, IF YOU WILL, VULCANS TO LEBANON, WHILE YOU ARE AT IT.

A. I THINK REALLY, MY SAME COMMENTS SHOULD REALLY APPLY-- AND THAT IS WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON, WE DO HAVE A MODEST MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. WE HAVE HAD ONE FOR SOME TIME. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC TRANSACTIONS WITHIN THAT MODEST PROGRAM.

Q. WELL, DOES IT INCLUDE ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS?

A. WELL, ON BACKGROUND I AM AWARE THAT IT INCLUDES SOME, BUT AGAIN, I WOULD EMPHASIZE, MODEST --

Q. OF BOTH?

A. NO. ANTI-TANK.

Q. AND NOT ANTI-AIRCRAFT?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANYTHING SPECIFICALLY, ON THAT.

Q. IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE SALES FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, OR SELF-DEFENSE FROM A FOREIGN THREAT?

A. THESE WOULD -- ALL OF THESE SALES I WOULD PUT UNDER THE RUBRIC OF WHAT WE WOULD CONSIDER TO BE LEGITIMATE UNCLASSIFIED

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SELF-DEFENSE NEEDS.

AND AGAIN, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT IN BOTH CASE, WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT -- BOTH WITH RESPECT TO SUMS AS WELL AS MATERIEL -- IT IS MODEST.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US SOMETHING MORE SPECIFIC THERE? I MEAN, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT "MODEST," IS IT NUMBERS IN DOLLAR FIGURES?

A. "MODEST," YES, I'LL STAY WITH THAT.

Q. THE OTHER BACKGROUND SOURCES WHO HAVE BEEN ADDRESSING THIS, THIS MORNING, HAVE SAID THAT THE ANTI-TANK WEAPONS FOR LEBANON, NUMBERED 18. DOES THAT COME CLOSE TO YOUR

NUMBER?

A. NO.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

A. CONSIDERABLY LOWER -- ON BACKGROUND.

-

Q. LOWER THAN 18?

Q. CAN'T YOU AT LEAST GIVE US A BALL PARK FIGURE ON THIS?  
WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE MILITARY SALES?

Q. IF IT'S LESS THAN 18 -- IS IT CONSIDERABLY LESS.

A. WELL NO, STU WAS ASKING ME IF IN FACT WE HAVE PROVIDED  
-- WHAT WAS IT -- 18 OF THESE ANTI-TANK THINGS --

Q. BUT OVERALL, CAN YOU JUST GIVE US A FIGURE.

A. AND I SAID ON BACKGROUND IN TERMS OF WHAT'S THERE, IT  
IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THAT.

Q. BUT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING -- IN ADDITION --

A. FEWER.  
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Q. LAUNCHERS?

A. YES, THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. BUT YOU ARE ALSO TALKING IN TERMS OF OTHER EQUIPMENT,  
ARE YOU NOT?

A. OH, YES. YES, THERE ARE OTHER ITEMS THAT WE HAVE  
SUPPLIED TO LEBANON -- IF THAT'S WHAT YOUR QUESTION IS.

Q. WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR IS SOMETHING OF A BALL PARK  
DOLLAR FIGURE OF ABOUT WHAT KIND OF SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.  
A MILLION?

A. I'LL JUST STAY WITH MY POSITION THAT THESE REPRESENT  
"MODEST" SALES.

Q. WHILE YOU ARE STAYING THERE, CAN YOU GO BACK TO YOUR  
OMAN COMMENT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHETHER THEY ARE NEW  
SALES, NOW, OR THAT YOU ARE DESCRIBING SOMETHING THAT PRE-  
CEDES THE SHEIK'S VISIT.

HAS SOMETHING BEEN ADDED AS A RESULT OF HIS VISIT --  
SOMETHING "MODEST" OF COURSE -- BUT HAS SOMETHING BEEN  
ADDED SINCE HIS VISIT?

A. WELL WITH RESPECT TO OMAN, I THINK I WOULD HAVE TO  
CHECK SPECIFICALLY, BUT THIS TRANSACTION ANTE-DATED HIS  
VISIT HERE.

Q. "PREDATED?"

A. YES.

Q. ONE TRANSACTION PREDATED IT, IS THAT RIGHT?

A. YES.

Q. AND IT WAS HELICOPTERS, YES. BUT SINCE HE HAS COME  
HERE, HAS HE GOTTEN ANY ARMS FROM US?  
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A. NO. NOW WITH RESPECT TO HELICOPTERS, THESE HAVE NOT  
BEEN MILITARY SALES. THEY WERE PURCHASED BY THE OMANESE  
IN THE PAST YEAR, FROM U.S. COMMERCIAL SOURCES.

Q. AND THEY COULDN'T GET THEM UNTIL THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
INTERCEDED FOR THEM. ISN'T THAT CORRECT?

A. WELL, I THINK IN TERMS OF THE SALE OF THE EXPORT OF  
HELICOPTERS, I AM PRETTY SURE THAT THEY HAVE TO BE O.K.'D  
BY THE REGULATIONS --

Q. WELL, ANYHOW, WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT IS THE PRESENT,  
AND NOT THE PAST. WHAT WE ARE ASKING IS WHETHER THERE  
HAVE BEEN NEW ARMS SALES AS A RESULT OF THE SHEIK'S VISIT  
-- (OR THE SULTAN, OR WHATEVER HE IS.) RULER.

A. I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK.  
I AM JUSTRYING TO RECOLLECT SOMETHING, BUT I WOULD HAVE  
TO CHECK.

Q. HOW ABOUT JORDAN? WHAT HAVE WE WORKED UP WITH THEM--  
FOR INSTANCE, HAWKS?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO PROVIDE YOU ON THAT.

Q. WHAT MEANS WHAT? THAT WE ARE NOT SELLING?

A. NO. I AM SAYING THAT WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE HAD A MILITARY

ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH JORDAN, WHICH GOES BACK A NUMBER OF YEARS. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAM.

Q. ONE OTHER THING WITH OMAN: THERE IS A REPORT THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISERS ARE WITH IRANIAN ADVISORS OUT FUNCTIONING IN OMAN. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. NO.

Q. IT IS NOT CORRECT?

A. NO.

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Q. ARE THERE ANY AMERICAN ADVISORS, MILITARY ADVISERS, ANYWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. "MILITARY ADVISERS?"

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Q. ADVISERS, YES. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MILITARY ATTACHES.

A. WELL I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY. CERTAINLY WE DO HAVE SOME. MAAG MISSIONS IN IRAN, FOR EXAMPLE, AND WE DO HAVE, I BELIEVE, SOME TECHNICAL TEAMS IN IRAN, AS WELL AS SAUDI ARABIA -- AT LEAST I'M JUST NOT BRIEFED ON THE DETAILS.

Q. ON SCHEDULING, FIRST OF ALL, IS IT A BACKGROUND THAT THE SECRETARY WILL NOT SEE MINISTER ALLON AGAIN?

A. THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS.

Q. DOES THAT INCLUDE THE AMBASSADOR -- I.E. FOR THE NEXT, LET'S SAY 24 HOURS?

A. GOSH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR FURTHER MEETINGS WITH MINISTER ALLON. HE WILL BE GOING THIS AFTERNOON, I BELIEVE.

Q. AND MR. EILTS, WHEN WILL HE BE GOING?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR HIS RETURN.

Q. OR THE DAY?

A. NO, I DON'T. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE HAVE SOMETHING.

Q. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN NOW, AS A

RESULT OF THE ALLON TALKS, TO THE SECRETARY GOING BACK TO  
THE MIDDLE EAST FOR A MEETING, PERSONALLY, WITH ANY OF  
THE --

A. I JUST CAN'T SAY AT THIS TIME.  
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Q. AS A RESULT OF THE TALKS, DOES THE PRESIDENT STILL  
THINK "STEP-BY-STEP" DIPLOMACY IS A WHOLESOME PROMISE FOR  
WORKING AT ANOTHER.

A. I THINK HE BELIEVES IT IS A VIABLE CONCEPT. YES. END  
QUOTE. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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